

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

3 APR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Syrian revolt
collapses

a. After army commanders elsewhere in Syria declared against them, the Nasirite officers in Aleppo [redacted]

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[redacted] finally accepted a compromise which had been worked out earlier. This agreement calls for restoration of civilian government under President Qudsi, exile (coupled with a substantial pay-off) for several of the most violently anti-Nasir officers, and a plebiscite on reunion with Egypt. The army, however, is left under the control of officers opposed to Nasir. We do not anticipate a restoration of the UAR as it was prior to September, but the trend for the moment seems to be toward a gradual improvement of relations which could lead to some form of loose association between the two countries.

b. Nasir apparently weighed his chances of successful intervention and decided against. His last face-saving statement pledges "himself, his mind and nerves in the service of whatever effort may save Syria and save every drop of blood in it," but only if all parties concerned agree.

c. These developments greatly decrease the chance of Jordanian intervention against the pro-UAR forces [redacted]

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[redacted] and virtually rule out the possibility of an Israeli move.

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3. West New Guinea

Neither side has yet responded to Ambassador Bunker's formula. The initial reaction of the Indonesian representative was positive, however, while that of the Dutch was strongly negative. De Quay and Luns took a similar attitude toward the President's letter, saying that if the proposal meant that Indonesia would take over the administration before the Papuans had a chance to express a choice "we will have none of it." On the military side, no major new developments have been reported

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4. Berlin

East German police yesterday morning began picking up permits for entry into East Berlin presented by both West Berliners and West Germans without permitting them to enter, but later in the day backed off again. While the pretext is the planned replacement of old permits, we suspect this activity is the beginning of a softening-up process for implementation of the new customs law, which is apparently to come into effect on 30 April. No corridor flights have been scheduled since last Thursday.

5. Soviets bring up reconnaissance satellite issue in Outer Space talks

They refused to accept the US list of specific topics unless a joint declaration against use of such satellites was included. We do not know whether they will make such a declaration a precondition for progress in cooperative space programs, but the groundwork has at least been laid for renewed propaganda exploitation of the "spy-in-the-sky" theme.

6. Argentina: temperature begins to drop

The armed forces, recognizing the threat that their removal of Frondizi poses for future political stability, are making conciliatory noises about a "national unity" cabinet under Guido. Although elements of Frondizi's party are still demanding his return, its national committee is backing Guido. The Peronistas, however, are threatening "popular insurrection" if their election victories are invalidated.

7. Mexican approach to
Cuba on prisoners

The Mexican Ambassador in Havana has been authorized to urge the Cuban government to commute any death sentences. The Brazilian request for postponement of the trial [redacted] was not accepted by Castro on the grounds that his public announcement of the trial had canceled his earlier exchange offer. [redacted]

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NOTES

A. The Soviet missile range ships in the Pacific have turned north and appear headed for Petropavlovsk. They were apparently routed south of Japan because of ice. [REDACTED]

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B. Ecuador broke relations with Cuba yesterday.

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D. British Guiana has provisionally agreed to purchase \$600,000 worth of agricultural processing equipment from East Germany, its first such deal with any bloc country.

E. French officials responsible for the Sahara are unhappy over the agreement with Algeria, which they say will give the Algerian government, after the initial six-year period, "in practice, the last word." [REDACTED]

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F. One consequence of the Algerian cease-fire has been a sudden improvement in relations between Guinea and France.

G. A meeting of the French African states has strongly rebuked Youlou of the Brazzaville Congo for his support of Tshombé.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE